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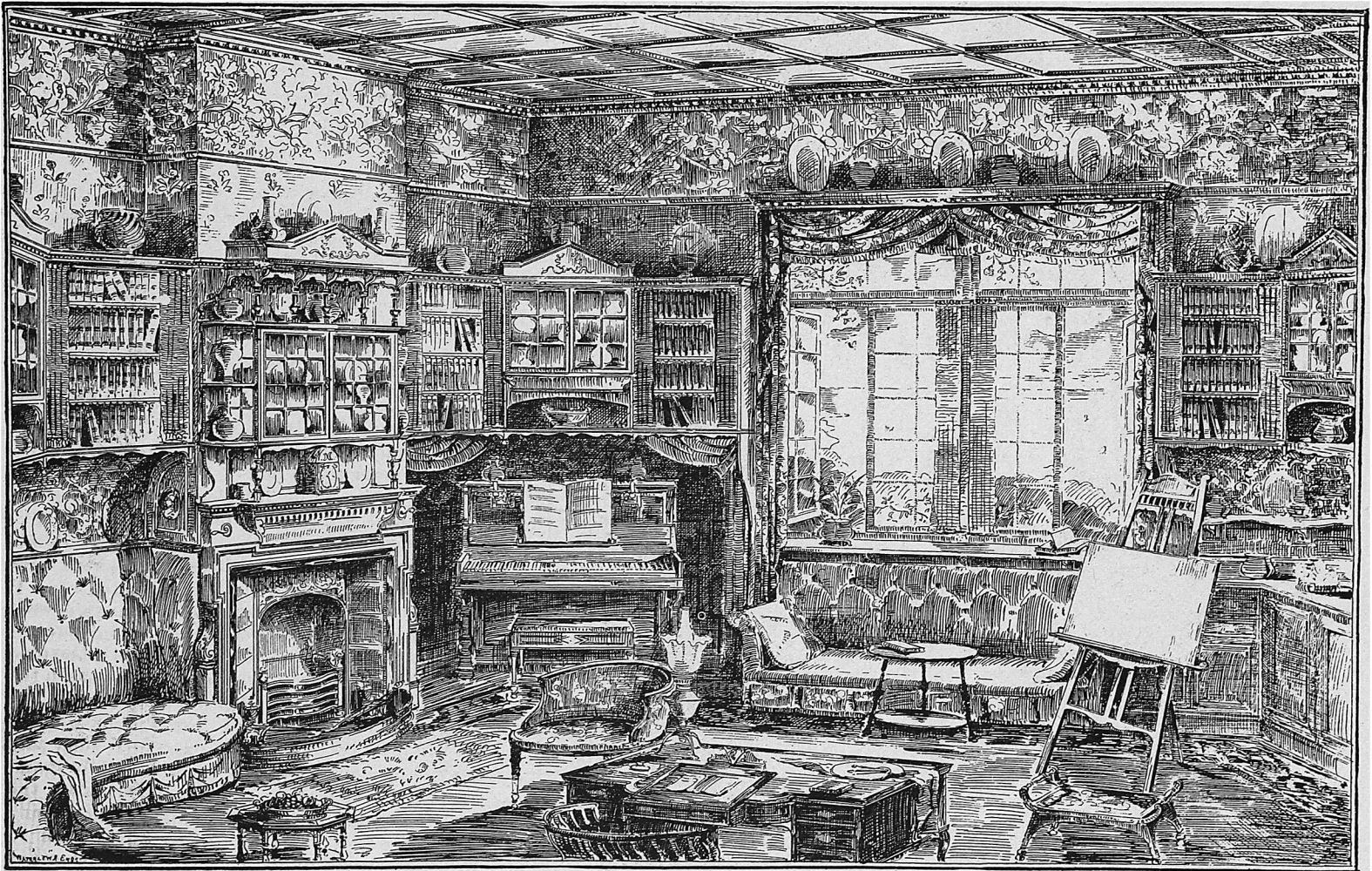
## THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

### AMONG THE SHOPS.

NOW that the fashion of filling our houses with dark, solemn furnishings "has been relegated to that mysterious place where our dropped follies sleep," we find ourselves cheered and our spirits raised by the sight of white and gold mingled with all the delicate colorings known to the dyers. At W. H. Jackson's we find some of the most beautiful examples of modern art. A mantel of white enamel set round with blue tile is a charming piece and would adorn the most dainty apartment. Another, a Moorish one, decorated with Charles Volkmar's tile is as artistic as a picture. Terra cotta tile with chipped edges makes a fitting setting for the basket of ruby coal which burns so brightly on the hearth. A white mahogany mantel, inlaid with holly and decorated with a beautiful design in poker work, is the handsomest example seen for many a day. A tile stove, each tile bearing a beautiful design, is an article to make its possessor the envied of all beholders. In this same house we find no end of artistic small furnishings in the way of brass and copper kettles for the crane and alcohol lamps; silver and brass turtles, whose wide backs are raised to discover a cuspidor inside; andirons of every description, and coal vases too numerous to mention. A brass one is a square box set diamond wise, with long brass hinges; another is of oak and handsomely brass bound; a unique one is a cherry trough, with brass handles and

antiques, is a long, low mahogany chest, brass bound, beautifully engraved, and brass handles. On the walls hang the most marvellous pieces of old tapestry, pictorial representations of a time which has almost vanished in the dim past. Antique silver and china, famous examples of lost processes and rare designs.

From time immemorial we have had various revivals of what is termed the "lost arts." At present the art of knitting is undergoing one of these processes, although it can by no means be called a lost art, even though for years it has not, as in earlier days, been considered a necessary part of a young woman's education. The more practical German and English workers have never neglected it, as they have a decided preference for substantial, hand-made articles. Silken underwear, which is such a delight to the dainty woman, is a luxury which only those with large means are supposed to enjoy. Let me whisper a secret in your ear, dear madame: If you will buy Brainard & Armstrong's underwear silk and knit your own underwear, you may be as finely clad as your millionaire neighbor, at about one third the cost. This silk is put up in continuous lengths of one ounce each, and makes a garment delightfully soft and warm; it is pliable to knit, and makes such pretty, pleasant work that one's outfit is completed almost before one knows it. The Jersey garments are most in use; these are made by knitting two plain and two purl, both for the body and sleeves of the garment. This same silk is suitable for hose and half hose;



ARRANGEMENT OF A GENERAL MORNING ROOM.

nails set in a saw-horse. Piano lamps, candlesticks, in fact the whole range of metal articles are found here in profusion. Lamps, lanterns, fenders, etc., of wrought-iron are a specialty of this house. All lovers of beautiful and artistic articles should not fail to pay them a visit.

Sypher & Co. have a first Empire cabinet which is well worth a long journey to see. There is nothing like it in all Europe; it is of metal and Sevres; there is a golden peacock in the center surrounded by a wreath of portraits, all ladies of Napoleon's Court. The back-ground is of pink lavender, with cameo cupids here and there. It is an exquisite thing, and no description however elaborate can do it justice. What a wonderful place is Sypher's any way. There seems to be nothing with any artistic or historical value that cannot be found here, and Mr. Sypher himself is a walking encyclopedia of the most delightful knowledge imaginable. An afternoon spent with him among his treasures is a liberal education. Here we find a large library table and chair which came from Fontainebleau. The table has brass legs, and a little desk on top filled with pigeon holes. It is covered with brown velvet, which has a wreath of metal flowers and leaves running around the edge.

An example, which is a perfect delight to the lover of

it makes a beautiful fabric which outwears half a score of woven articles. Nearly all women have a weakness for silk stockings, and small wonder was it that Queen Elizabeth was vastly pleased upon being presented with a pair of black ones, or that she should declare that thereafter she would wear no other kind.

A great improvement made by Brainard & Armstrong is, that of dyeing sewing silk and button-hole twist together, that there may be no trouble in matching them. They do this with each season's new shades, so that merchants in buying new dress goods have no trouble to find silk and twist to match. Too much cannot be said for the different varieties of embroidery silks which come under the head of Brainard & Armstrong's Asiatic Dyes; they have been awarded medals three different years at the American Institute, besides receiving the unqualified praise of thousands of women all over the country who have used them. The rope silk, which is a large loosely-twisted thread, beautiful to work with, is a wash silk and comes in all colorings. Workers with the needle will find this, as well as filoselle, outline silk and the twisted embroidery silk, indispensable. These threads are shown in all the new art shades, fast dyes, which makes them not only things of beauty, but joys for centuries, for they are warranted not to fade.